

Published June 19th, 2013

Orinda Historical Society Display Honors Veterans

By Laurie Snyder



The Orinda Historical Society Museum's display window showcases military uniforms and war memorabilia. Photo Andy Scheck

World War II. Korea. Vietnam. Desert Storm. America's response to 9/11. They live quietly among us - men and women who answered the call at times when our nation and world needed unparalleled strength of character and wisdom - the soldiers, aviators, sailors, and military healthcare providers whose eyes have seen what none should see: Auschwitz, Hiroshima, the kinds of wounds to bodies and minds that can only be inflicted during war.

A special exhibit at the Orinda Historical Society Museum has been wowing little ones and inspiring their parents to stop and give silent thanks for their neighbors' bravery. Installed prior to Memorial Day by OHS volunteers, the uniforms of multiple residents - many impressively decorated with regimental crests, unit commendations, campaign ribbons, and other awards - are visible in the Society's display case and windows, arranged in a family-friendly presentation designed to spark discussion. The exhibit also includes maps of military campaigns and other memorabilia, including a World War I-era helmet from an American soldier, Nazi bayonet, photographs, and medals earned for service.

Also included is a book of photographs taken by World War II photojournalist, Wayne F. Miller, who passed away May 22. Miller, the long-time Orinda resident who served with the famed naval photographic unit headed by Edward Steichen, captured many of that era's most unforgettable images.

Members of the Historical Society plan to keep their tribute to veterans up through the week of July 4, and hope residents and their families will take in the display while attending Orinda's upcoming Fourth of July Celebration. The exhibit is viewable daily, regardless of whether or not the Society's museum is open. For more information, to become a Society member or volunteer, or to loan or donate your military memorabilia for inclusion in the display, call OHS: (925) 254-1353.

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